New Year

China

** On the first day of New Year the house should not be cleaned because, according to the Chinese superstitions, the happiness should not be removed from the house.*

** For the good luck and to welcome the New Year, wear red clothes.*

** Open the windows of the house to allow the old year to go outside.*

** The ancient Chinese kitchen god was a bit of tattletale. Each year, right before the new year, the kitchen god was suppose to report all the behavior of the household to his boss, the Jade Emperor. The ancient Chinese believed if you left sweets as offerings for the kitchen god on the kitchen hearth right before he gave his report, his report would be glowing! The Jade Emperor would reward the family's good behavior with good luck. Since the kitchen god could not eat these treats, the family could eat them after they were offered to the kitchen god.*

Brazil

** White butterfly brings good luck. If you see it at the beginning of the year, you'll be happy all year (Brazil)*

** If you want to have money all year, you need to eat lentils on the 1st January.*

** If you want to be happy all year, Brazilian people will tell you that you need to wear white clothes on New Year's Eve.*

Luck, Fortune and Happiness

China

** If you build a house, it should not be facing North, but South.*

** Number eight brings luck.*

** The ancient Chinese believed about umbrellas is that you can never open them inside your house. If you do, this will bring bad luck. If someone did, the women grabbed their brooms and swept the bad luck out the door immediately!*

Brazil

** To find something you have lost, promise Saint Longinus that you will hop three times for him once you find it.*
** Sea shells, shark teeth and found horseshoes are symbols of happiness and good luck so it is good to have them with you*
** When you move, take all your things with you, except broom. Forget it and buy new broom for your new home*
** Leaving a pot with rock salt in the corners of your house scares away bad luck.*
** If you have an unwanted visitor, put a broom upside down behind a door and this visitor will leave.*
** If a fork falls on the floor, a man will visit you. If a spoon falls, a woman will come*

Russia

- *If someone praises you, avoid a jinx by knocking on wood and spitting three times over your left shoulder. It is bad luck to spill salt.*
- *Its good luck to sit between two people with the same name. This is not as hard as it sounds, since Russians and Ukrainians often have common first names.*
- ***Hiccups** - If you get hiccups it means someone has just thought about you.*
- ***Sneezing** - If someone sneezes while telling you something, it means they're telling the truth.*
- ***Falling Utensils** - If a fork or a spoon fall off the table it means a female guest will soon arrive. If a knife falls off the table it means a male guest will soon arrive.*
- *If its raining when leaving someplace it means you'll return.*
- *If a cat is washing its face, you can expect guests soon.*
- *Singing - Another superstition on the same lines as whistling, this superstition says you must not sing on an empty stomach. It's ok after breakfast for some reason, but before then, avoid singing or you will chase your money away (and maybe your wife too if your singing is*

really that bad!)

- *The Flow of Wealth - This Russian superstition says you should always take/receive money with your left hand, but give it with your right hand.*

Marriage

China

** Man and woman with the same surname do not have to enter into the marriage, because Chinese people believe that they are probably relatives*

** Wedding dress should be white, red or yellow coloured.*

Brazil

- *When a woman is pregnant and people want to know if it is a boy or a girl they wrap a fork and a spoon in a napkin and place it on a couch. If the woman sits on the fork, it is a boy. If she sits on the spoon, it is a girl.*

Russia

- ***Odd Number of Flowers** - Always give your wife or girlfriend an odd number of flowers*
- *If it rains at your wedding, it means you will be rich.*

Money

- *Nails should never be cut at night because it brings financial problems (China, India)*
- *If your left hand is itchy, it means you will receive extra money (Brazil)*
- *If your right hand itches you'll be receiving money soon. If your left hand itches, you'll soon be paying someone money (Russia)*
- *When you make coffee, always put the sugar in the cup before the coffee - and one day you'll become a rich man (Brazil)*
- *If you want to have enough money, then you should have the figure of an elephant in the house. But be sure to turn*

it back toward the door (Brazil)

- *Having a china elephant with its trunk up as an ornament in your house brings financial luck and you always have money (Brazil)*
- *Whistle inside and you are whistling away your money. If you forget, you are sure to be reminded immediately by your Russian friend(s) - especially if it is in their home (Russia)*

Tokoloshe: *(South African voodoo)*

- *a small "man or humanlike figure" that haunts people.*
- *If you're in a conflict with somebody, you can go to a Sangoma and get him to send a Tokoloshe to "sort them out".*
- *The Tokoloshe can only be seen by the person that it is supposed to haunt.*
- *It sets your bed or the curtains on fire.*
- *Tokoloshe is not invincible. If you manage to fight it and get a hair straw from its head, you're supposed to have power and control over the Tokoloshe, and thus you must take very good care of it!!*
- *Another typical defence measure is to put bricks under the bedposts so that it elevates the bed.*
- *People hand hedgehog skins on the front door. The pins will apparently hurt and injure the Tokoloshe when it knocks on your door.*